

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method, comprising:

2 sending a first immediate message from a location, wherein the first immediate  
3 message comprises a request for information; and

4 receiving a second immediate message, wherein the second instant message  
5 comprises a response to the request, wherein the response is dependent on the location.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sending the first immediate message further  
2 comprises sending the first immediate message to a user name identified in a buddy list.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the user name identifies a program executing on an  
2 instant-messaging server.

1 4. A method, comprising:

2 receiving a first instant message from a sender;

3 determining a location of the sender; and

4 sending a second instant message to the sender, wherein contents of the second  
5 instant message are dependent on the location of the sender.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2 parsing contents of the first instant message to determine a meaning of the  
3 contents, wherein the contents of the second instant message are further dependent on the  
4 meaning.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2       finding information related to the meaning of the contents of the first instant

3       message; and

4       building the contents of the second instant message based on the information.

1 7. A server, comprising:

2       data indicating a location of a mobile device; and

3       a personal-assistance controller to send information to the mobile device, wherein

4       the information is based on the location of the mobile device.

1 8. The server of claim 7, wherein the mobile device is connected via a long-lived

2       connection to the instant-messaging server.

1 9. The server of claim 7, wherein the personal-assistance controller is to send an instant

2       message to the mobile device, wherein the instant message comprises the information.

1 10. The server of claim 7, further comprising:

2       a location database comprising the location of the mobile device and the

3       information, wherein the information is specific to the location.

1 11. The server of claim 7, wherein the personal-assistance controller is further to:

2       parse a request from the mobile device to determine a meaning of the request, and

3       determine the information based on the location of the mobile device and the

4       meaning of the request.

1 12. A mobile device, comprising:  
2 a controller to contact a hotspot-access point, send a request for information to a  
3 server via the hotspot-access, and receive a response to the request, wherein the response  
4 comprises information dependent on a location of the hotspot-access point.

1 13. The mobile device of claim 12, wherein the request and the response are both instant  
2 messages.

1 14. The mobile device of claim 12, wherein the request is sent and the response is  
2 received over a long-lived connection.

1 15. The mobile device of claim 12, wherein the controller further is to send the request to  
2 a user name identified in a buddy list.

1 16. The mobile device of claim 15, wherein the user name identifies a program executing  
2 on an instant-messaging server.

1 17. An apparatus, comprising:  
2 an instant-messaging server comprising  
3 a personal-assistance controller,  
4 presence data comprising reachability and location information regarding a  
5 plurality of mobile devices, and  
6 information regarding services relative to a plurality of hotspot-access  
7 points; and  
8 wherein one of the plurality of mobile devices comprises:

9                   a controller to connect to one of the plurality of hotspot-access points, send  
10                  a request to the personal-assistance controller, and receive a response to the  
11                  request, wherein the response comprises information dependent on a location of  
12                  the one of the plurality of hotspot-access points.

1       18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the personal-assistance controller is to determine  
2       the location of the one of the plurality of hotspot-access points via the presence data.

1       19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the request and response are both instant  
2       messages.

1       20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the instant-messaging server further comprises a  
2       buddy list for a user of the mobile device.

1       21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the personal-assistance controller has an  
2       associated entry in the buddy list.

1       22. A signal-bearing media comprising instructions, wherein the instructions when read  
2       and executed by a processor comprise:

3                  receiving a first instant message;  
4                  determining a location of a sender of the first instant message; and  
5                  sending a second instant message to the sender, wherein contents of the second  
6       instant message are dependent on the location of the sender.

1        23. The signal-bearing media of claim 22, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
2                parsing contents of the first instant message to determine a meaning of the  
3        contents, wherein the contents of the second instant message are further dependent on the  
4        meaning.

1        24. The signal-bearing media of claim 22, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
2                finding information related to the meaning of the contents of the first instant  
3        message; and  
4                building the contents of the second instant message based on the information.

1        25. The signal-bearing media of claim 22, wherein the location of the sender comprises a  
2        location of a hotspot access point.